Poor quality of TV Transmission in Rajayalyam and Palani Tamil Nadu

709. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Rajayalayam Kalav-kumlai and Palani in Tamil Nadu are not getting clear transmission because of the nearby hills;

(b) whether Government have received any complaint from Rajapulayam municipality, Tamil Nadu in this regard; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to set up TV relay station of the above mentioned cities similar to the one installed in Courtalam Hill in Tamil Nadu near Thinkaji so that the TV programmes could be watched by people of these areas well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. A complaint about the poor TV reception at Rajapalayam has been received from the Chairman, Municipal Council, Rajapalayam.

(c) whereas there is no approved scheme at present to set up TV transmitters at Rajapayalam, Kalaukumalai and Palani in Tamil Nadu, it is the constant endeavour of the Government to extend TV service to uncovered parts of the country, as expenditiously as possible, depending upon the availability of resources for the purpose.

Equal pay for equal work

710. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy regarding equal pay for equal work;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to formulate the same; and

(c) if so, by when and if the reply to part (b) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN): (a) The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 is already in force to provide for payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers for performing the same work or work of a similar nature. The principle of equality is also kept in view while fixing the minimum wage levels under the Minimum Wages Act.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Excise concession to small scale units

711. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what excise concession to small scale, units are available under the Small Scale Exemption Scheme as at present indicating also the licensing limit to obtain excise licence as on date; and

(b) whether the Central investment Subsidy Scheme has been reviewed for small scale units located in rural and backward areas of the country; if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Under the Small Scale Exemption Scheme currently in operation, registered small scale units are fully exempt from excise duty upto clearances of Rs. 20 lakhs (Rs. 30 lakhs in a year for goods covered in more than one chapter of the Central Excise Tariff). On clearances ranging between Rs. 20 lakhs and 75 lacks, a concessional rate of duty i.e., the normal duty minus 10 per cent *ad valorem*, subject to minimum duty of 5 per cent ad valorem is levied. The aforesaid exemption/concession is available to units whose aggregate